

Life-Style Addendum

The Chapel

A Life-Style agreement is signed by all ministry leaders, small group shepherds, teachers, platform ministers (including worship & drama team members), and workers with minors at The Chapel.

Introduction: The Chapel is a body of believers whose vision is to bring people closer to God, to other people, and to freedom in Christ. We endeavor to accomplish our vision by bringing people closer . . .
. . . to God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ,
. . . to other people through purpose-filled relationships and,
. . . to true freedom in Christ through a growing relationship with Christ and with people. This freedom includes being free from the guilt, shame, and bondage that comes from unconfessed sin or areas of life that have not been brought fully under the control of the Holy Spirit.

As this vision is taught throughout the ministry of The Chapel, it must also be modeled by our leaders. **This is not a statement of perfection, but an agreement that needs to reflect the direction of our hearts.**

Living a Biblical Life-Style: The Bible frequently speaks about a holy life-style. Such passages are found throughout the Old and New Testaments. The Bible describes character qualities and actions that should be growing in the lives of believers. These include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, humility, compassion, forgiveness, hospitality, personal integrity, generosity to the poor, care for the oppressed, prayer, study of God's Word, and accountability to one another, sharing our faith with others, commitment to justice, regular gathering for worship and living in unity.

The Bible also identifies character qualities and actions that should not be present in the lives of believers. For example: destructive anger, malice, sexual immorality, impurity, adultery, evil desires, greed, idolatry, slander, profanity, lying, homosexual behavior, drunkenness, thievery, and dishonesty. As God's people we agree with His definitions of sin. We confess our sins and have a track record of cooperating with God in removing them from our lives.

Special Considerations for The Chapel:

Equality – We believe that life is sacred and people have worth because they are created in God's image.

- We value human life, recognizing that women and men of all races, ages, and ability levels reflect the creative genius of our Maker. With this in mind, we will abstain from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and disability. We will also abstain from discrimination based on gender and age unless there are special circumstances mandated in God's Word.
- We affirm God's love for all people. Hatred toward any group of people is not permissible for Christians. The church, following the example of Christ, will demonstrate compassion for all (Romans 5:8, John 3:16-17, Matthew 9:10-13).

Unity – We believe that unity in the Body of Christ is paramount if we will be effective in fulfilling God's will in the world.

- We affirm mutual respect and humility in relationships within the Body of Christ. We will strive to encourage and stimulate each other as each of us progresses in our journeys into being formed into fully devoted followers of God.
- We affirm the truths presented in The Chapel's Doctrinal Statement.
- We will abstain from gossip, deliberate divisiveness, and malicious humor.
- We admit that we are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God. All of us have gone our own way. None of us is by nature any better than anyone else; it is only through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, by His grace and faith in Him that any of us can be acceptable to God. This understanding is the true basis for unity. (Romans 3:23, Isaiah 53:6, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 3:16-18).

Sexuality – We believe sexuality is one of God's good gifts.

- We affirm God's intention that human sexuality be expressed and fulfilled only within faithful, monogamous, heterosexual marriage relationships (Gen. 2:23-25, Hebrews 13:4, Ephesians 5:2-5).
- We affirm that temptation toward homosexual activity and other sexual relationships outside of marriage is not sinful in and of itself. Rather, the willful pursuit and practice of such activities are sinful (Lev. 18-22, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NIV, Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 2:1-10).
- We affirm that God forgives any repentant person of any event, habit or attitude of the past, and that He bestows, by grace alone, new life in His Son, Jesus Christ. The church is God's instrument of healing forgiveness, and we will seek to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 1:1-10).

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom: and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

(Colossians 3:15-17)

All persons serving in a technical capacity at the Chapel are expected to understand and affirm the principles listed above. Technical staff are expected, to the best of their ability, uphold these biblical standards outlined in this life-style addendum.